

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/803,826

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

Applicant(s)

PUZIO, MICHAEL

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview Nov 24, 2004
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 14, 15, 19 + 20
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 5/14/04 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

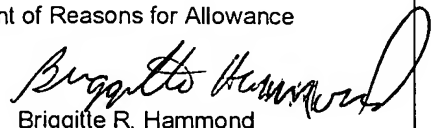
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Brigitte R. Hammond
Examiner
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Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Steinberger on November 24, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows: **claims 3, 6, 7, 9-13 and 16-18 are canceled and claims 1 and 15 have been replaced with Newly Amended claims 1 and 15 (shown below),**

Claim 1 (Newly Amended). A locking device for keeping interconnected ends of electrical cords from separating from one another, comprising;

a planar elongated device having a constant width;

a first set of staggered arranged side edge facing slots on one end of the device, the first set of staggered slots including a total of three identically shaped slots with a first slot and a second slot on one side of the one end of the device and a third slot on an opposite side of the one end of the device, for allowing one end of one of the interconnected cords to be wrapped about in an over approximately 360 degree pattern through the first, the second and the third slots; and

a second set of staggered side edge facing slots on an opposite end of the device, the second set of staggered slots including a total of three identically shaped slots with a fourth slot and a fifth slot on one side of the opposite end of the device and a sixth slot on an opposite side of the opposite end of the device for allowing one end of another of the interconnected cords to be wrapped about in an over approximately 360 degree pattern through the fourth, the fifth and the sixth slots; and

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a solid backing directly underlying and supporting the end of the interconnected cords, wherein pulling the interconnected cords apart causes the wrapped cords to lock into the device preventing the interconnected cords from disconnecting from one another.

Claim 15(Newly Amended). A method of locking interconnected electrical cords together, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongated planar shaped device having a constant width, a first end and a second end opposite to the first end, the first end having a first set of staggered identically shaped slots, the first set having two slots on one side of the first end and a third slot on the opposite side of the first end, the second end having a second set of staggered identically shaped slots, the second end having two slots on one side of the first end and a third slot on the opposite side of the second end, and a solid planar backing portion located between the first end the second end;

mateably interconnecting one end of the first electrical cord with one end of a second electrical cord;

positioning the interconnected ends of the cords over the solid planar backing portion of the planar shaped devices:

wrapping the one end of the first electrical cord about opposite side facing slots along a the first end of a planar shaped device in an over approximately 360 degree pattern; and

wrapping the one end of the second electrical cord about opposite side facing slots along the a second end of the planar shaped device, the second end being opposite the end in an approximately 360 degree pattern; and

pulling the first electrical cord and second electrical cord apart causing the first cord and the second cord to lock into the respective slots.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2,4,5,8,14,15,19 and 20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: regarding claims 1 and 15, patentability resides, at least in part in the locking device being a planar

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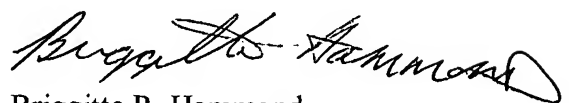
elongated device having a constant width and having first and second sets of staggered identically shaped slots, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Brigitte R. Hammond
Examiner